

HO-516, Mrs. Fairbanks House
5776 Paradise Avenue, Elkridge
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill
March 2003

ADDENDUM

Section 3. Owner of Property

Michael and Sharon Graff
5776 Paradise Avenue
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Section 4. Location of Legal Description

Howard County Courthouse
Ellicott City
Liber 1097, Folio 700
Tax map 38, Parcel 606

Section 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

X Other Contributing building in the Elkridge Landing Historic Survey District, HO-784

Section 7. Description

Condition: Poor
Date: pre-1860

Recorded in the 1970's as the Mrs. Fairbanks House, this large, double pile, two story frame house is probably one of the oldest houses still standing in this area of Elkridge. It is not, however, in good shape. The house rests on a stone foundation and faces east on the northwest corner of Railroad and Paradise Avenues and has been altered and added onto several times. The north façade of the frame structure is currently covered with wood shingles, as is the bay window on the front façade; the south façade, most of the east façade, and the rear façade are all covered with wood clapboards. The side gabled asphalt shingle roof has a large central interior brick chimney at the ridge. The house was originally probably only one room deep and was enlarged with a full width two story addition on the rear fairly early on. When the addition was made, the existing gable roof was extended to cover it resulting in the rear slope of the roof being longer than the front slope. The asymmetry of the roof is compounded by the second story bay window on the front façade which extends into the roof and is capped by a semi-conical hipped roof. A pedimented, parallel gabled projecting bay on the north façade, a two story projecting single bay with a gable on hip roof on the rear façade, and a single story full width gable and shed roofed addition on the rear are all later additions which add to the visual confusion of the structure.

The front porch, recorded in the 1970's as having a hipped roof, has been the most severely altered. The single story full width porch now has a shed roof and has

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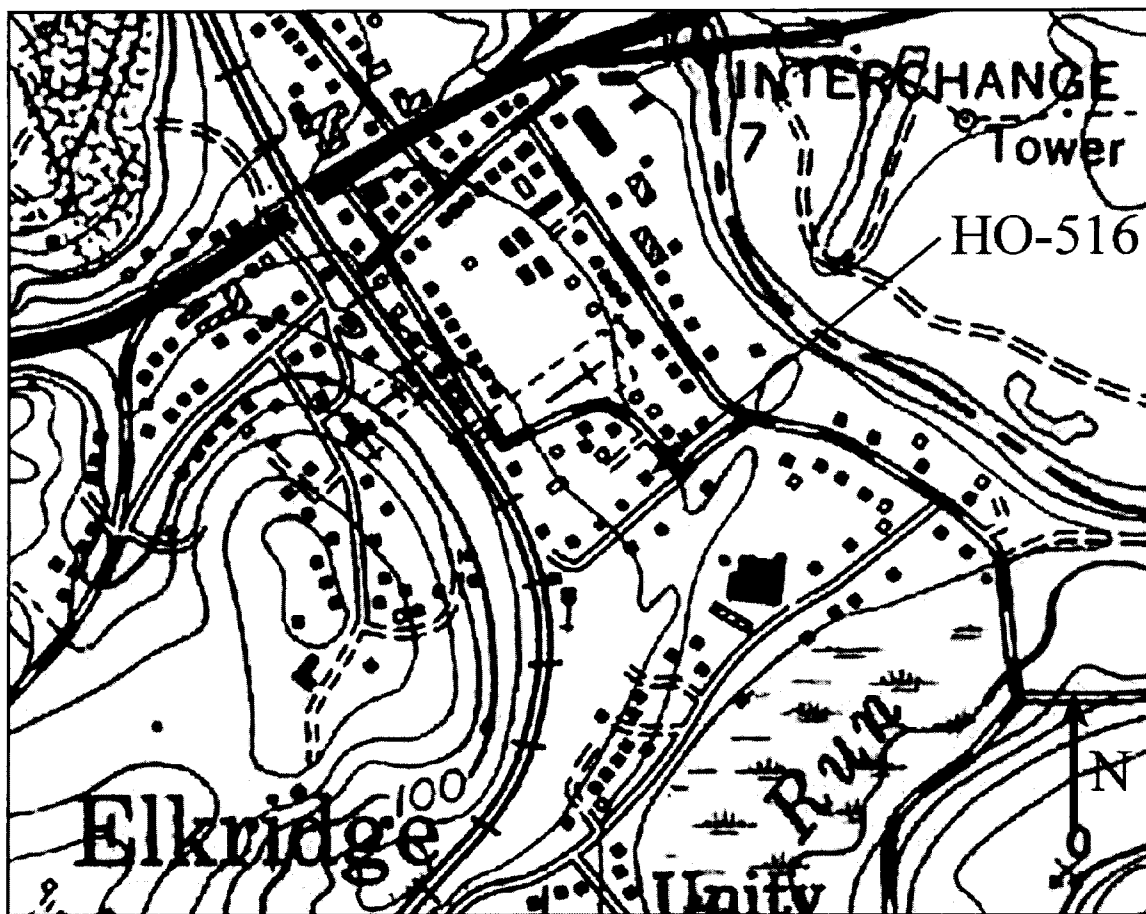
ADDENDUM

been entirely enclosed and sheathed in vinyl siding. A modern metal faux-paneled door is centrally located on the front façade of the enclosed porch and is flanked by a 1/1 vinyl window on either side. Some original 6/6 windows remain in the house, though none appear to be in good condition. The windows in the front bay window are 1/1 wood and a few windows in the house are vinyl replacements; at least one window opening is covered only with plastic sheeting. Boxed cornice returns on the south gable end and the remnants of a corner board seem to imply that at one time the large old house was a fine and impressive structure.

This structure is probably the same one indicated on the 1860 Martenet map along Paradise Avenue as belonging to Mrs. Fairbanks, and a pre-1860 construction date seems completely plausible. An interior investigation of the structure could possibly determine more precisely when it was built.

Section 11. Form Prepared by

Kristin H. Hill, Architectural Historian
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-4335
May 2003



HO-516, Mrs. Fairbanks House
Elkridge, Howard County, MD
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay
7.5 Minute Series, 1957 (PR 1966 and 1974)



1. 1000

2. 1000

3. 1000

4. 1000

5. 1000

6. 1000

1 of 3



203



1. [illegible]

2. [illegible]

3. [illegible]

4. [illegible]

5. [illegible]

6. [illegible]

7. [illegible]

8. [illegible]

9. [illegible]

3 of 3

HO-516

The Mrs. Fairbanks House

Elkridge

Private

circa 1860

The Mrs. Fairbanks House faces east on the northwest corner of Railroad and Paradise Avenues. It is a four bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, rectangular, eight room, gabled roof (running north-south) German siding, frame house (partially covered with shingles) with alterations on each elevation, and two large, square, central brick chimneys inset into its interior dividing wall.

The rectangular entrance is located in the second north bay of the east wall, surmounted by a wooden lintel, decorated by a row of dentils and a one light transom. An additional rectangular entrance has been created in the second south bay, and the former, one family house created into a two family dwelling.

The east elevation features a one story high, partially enclosed, hipped roof porch along this elevation, upon which rises, on the north side of the building a conical roof, second floor, shingled, oriele window.

Additional shed and gabled roof projections have been made on the west side of the building's north wall and south wall and along its entire west elevation, creating a gingerbread Victorian effect to the building.

The house is believed to have been constructed circa 1860 and to have been occupied by Charity Fairbanks, extensive landowner of the area.

HO-516
Dist. 1

MAI # 1405165534

1 NAME

The Mrs. Fairbanks House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

5776 Paradise Avenue

 VICINITY OF

6th

Maryland

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mr. Percy M. Gray

Telephone #:

5776 Paradise Avenue

Elkridge

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Tax Map 38, p. 606

Folho #: 236

Howard County Court House

Ellicott City

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

1978-1979

 FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

Maryland Historical Trust

21 State Circle, Annapolis

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-516
Dist. 1

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mrs. Fairbanks House faces east on the northwest corner of Railroad and Paradise Avenues. It is a four bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) German siding, frame house (partially covered with shingles) with alterations on each elevation. It was originally constructed in almost a salt box effect, with the gable roof of the house sloping westward, from attic to second floor. It features a large, square, central, brick chimney, west of the apex of the gable roof.

The original rectangular entrance was located in the second north bay of the east wall, surmounted by a wooden lintel, decorated by a row of dentils and a one light transom. Some alteration has been made to this entrance, which leads now into a small square hall, apparently recently constructed, with interior entrance on its north wall, rather than the original entrance on the south wall, which is the original dividing wall. This entrance has now been blocked in, to create a two family house, which was originally a one family residence. An entrance door to the south half of the house has been created in the second south bay (originally a rectangular window, similar to that in the south end bay). Windows on the first floor are rectangular, double-hung and hold one-over-one lights. The two small second floor windows on the two south bays of the east elevation are original to the building, holding six-over-six lights and smaller in scale than those on the first floor. A one story high, semi-enclosed, (screened in on the south side) hipped roof porch runs along the entire east elevation.

Victorian alterations have been made to the house. On its east facade, a semi-conical roof, oriel window rises from the hipped roof of the porch. It holds three, one-over-one light, windows. On the north elevation a one story high, shed roofed projection was made on the western half of this wall, offering an additional entrance on its east wall from the room behind the front section of the house, located in the west half of the building. A rectangular, one-over-one light window rests in the north wall of this projection and another such window in the slanted west wall of this projection. Above the one story high, shed roofed addition rests a one and a half story high, intersecting gable (running north-south) shingled projection, second floor kitchen bay. An additional, intersecting gable roof (running east-west) extends from the west side of this kitchen wing gable roof. A further shed roof addition on this west wall extends over a first floor, semi-enclosed, shed roofed addition, which runs along the entire west elevation of the house. (Please see Figure 1)

At this point it is difficult to describe the additions to the house, which grew like topsy.

First of all, the one story high, shed roofed, semi-enclosed porch runs along the entire west elevation. In addition, on the south side of this west wall, one further major, intersecting hipped roof (running east-west, upon which has been added a gable roof) second story, projecting bay has been constructed, creating a very interesting building profile on this elevation.

The south half of the house holds a living room which features an exceptionally fine wooden mantle piece, whose architrave is decorated with a central, fluted oval and whose mantle shelf is supported by two full, fluted wooden columns. Beyond, off the west wall of the living room, lies the dining room-den, which features a fine staircase in its southeast corner, holding carved spindles and original knewel post. Two bedrooms lie upstairs as well as two bedrooms in the full

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

attic (occupied totally by the resident of the southern half of the house). The attic features eight light, rectangular, north and south windows.

Lastly, a wide entrance on the south wall of the first floor dining room-den leads into a newly created kitchen, formed by a one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame addition, which has been constructed along the west side of the building's original south wall.

The north half of the house features two fine, first floor mantelpieces, (that in the west room features two mantle shelves, connected and held by full columns) and the major staircase for the house, which is similar to the back staircase, located in the southern half of the house. This staircase leads to an exceptionally pleasant, second floor, front room, created by the three windows of the three sided, oriele window.

A small hall on the west side of the staircase landing leads directly to a hall and bath, passing a north entrance into a well-lighted, second floor kitchen, created from the projecting, second floor bay on the west side of the building's north wall.

These numerous alterations to an otherwise rather simple, rectangular, two story high, eight room building, with central dividing wall, into which two large, brick chimneys have been placed, create a gingerbread Victorian effect as well as offering an example of how buildings are shaped, adapted and decorated to meet the needs and tastes of its owners.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mrs. Fairbanks House is of outstanding and particular significance to the State of Maryland and Howard County, architecturally, as an example of a four bay wide, two room deep, two story high, ten room, single family dwelling unit of the mid nineteenth century, to which several Victorian additions and alterations have been made, creating a rather interesting stylistic effect, and historically, as the property of Charity Fairbanks, who owned a large part of a larger tract of land called "Hanover", from the B & O Railroad tracks, east to Furnace Avenue.

Architecturally, the building is unique. First, it is a mid nineteenth century, two story high, four bay wide, single family house, rather than a two family dwelling, though recently it has been converted to accommodate two families. Other single family houses in this area are two bay wide structures such as HO-510, and HO-511. Secondly, to this relatively straightforward, simply designed house, have been constructed several additions and alterations, which give it a gingerbread, Victorian effect, with unique stylistic detail for this area. Examples of such additions are 1) the conical roof, second floor, oriele window, which rests on the north half of the one story high, hipped roof, semi-enclosed porch, running along the buildings' west facade, 2) an intersecting, gabled roof, second floor, projecting shingled bay, resting on another shed roofed, one story high, projection on the west side of the building's north elevation, (an additional intersecting gable runs from its west side) and 3) this latter intersecting gable, projecting bay rests on the one story high, shed roofed, semi-enclosed porch which runs along the entire west elevation, upon which another second floor, hipped roof (upon which is superimposed a gable roof) projection on the south side of the west elevation is placed. Such alterations create a rather picturesque effect and make this structure unique in this area.

In addition to its individual architectural significance, it is noteworthy architecturally as a focal point to the streetscape along the north side of Paradise Avenue at its northwest intersection with Railroad Avenue. See also HO-517, Section 8, Significance Statement for the The John Caples House.

Historically, the house is noted on the 1860 Martennet Map and the 1878 Hopkin's Atlas as the property of Mrs. Fairbanks, large property owner in the area.

In conclusion, Mrs. Fairbanks House, in conjunction with the Railroad Avenue Historic District, should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmarks ordinance, which the residents within this area may wish to initiate.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martennet Map of 1860
Interview with Mr. McDonald, occupant of the south side
of the Mrs. Fairbanks House,
February 17, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .572 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 351 Folio 236

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

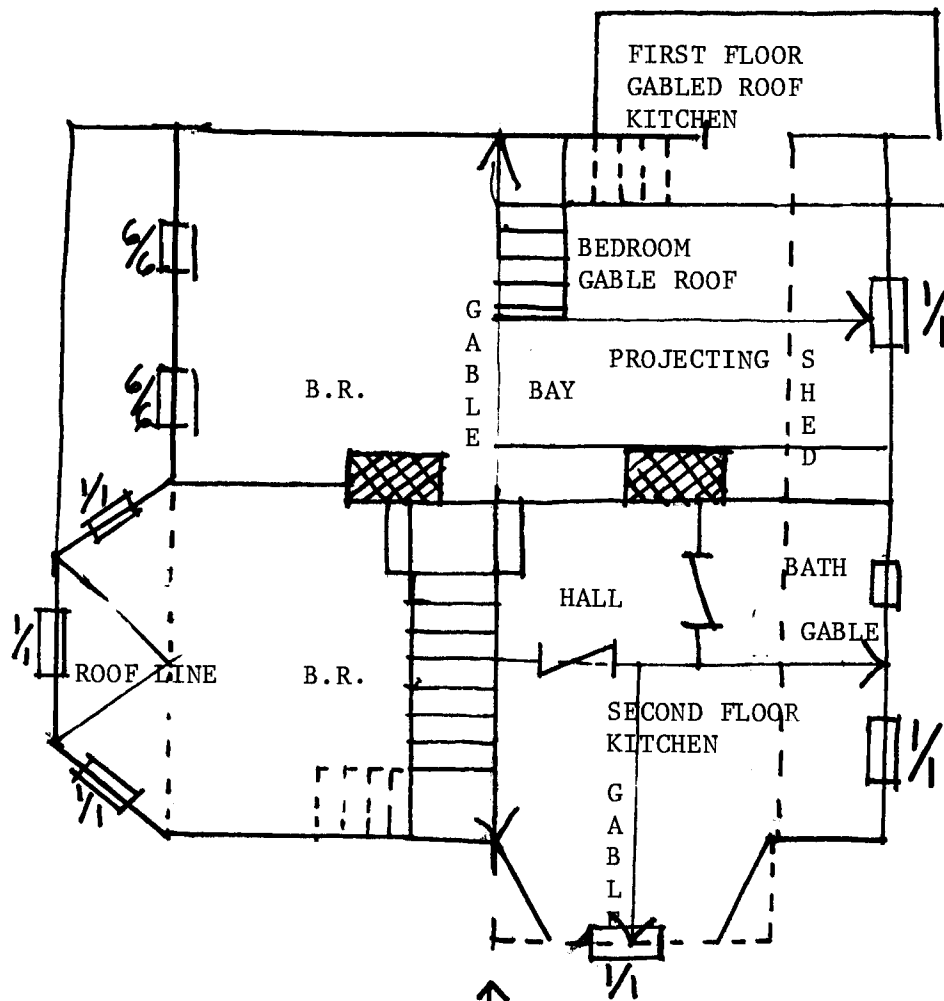
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

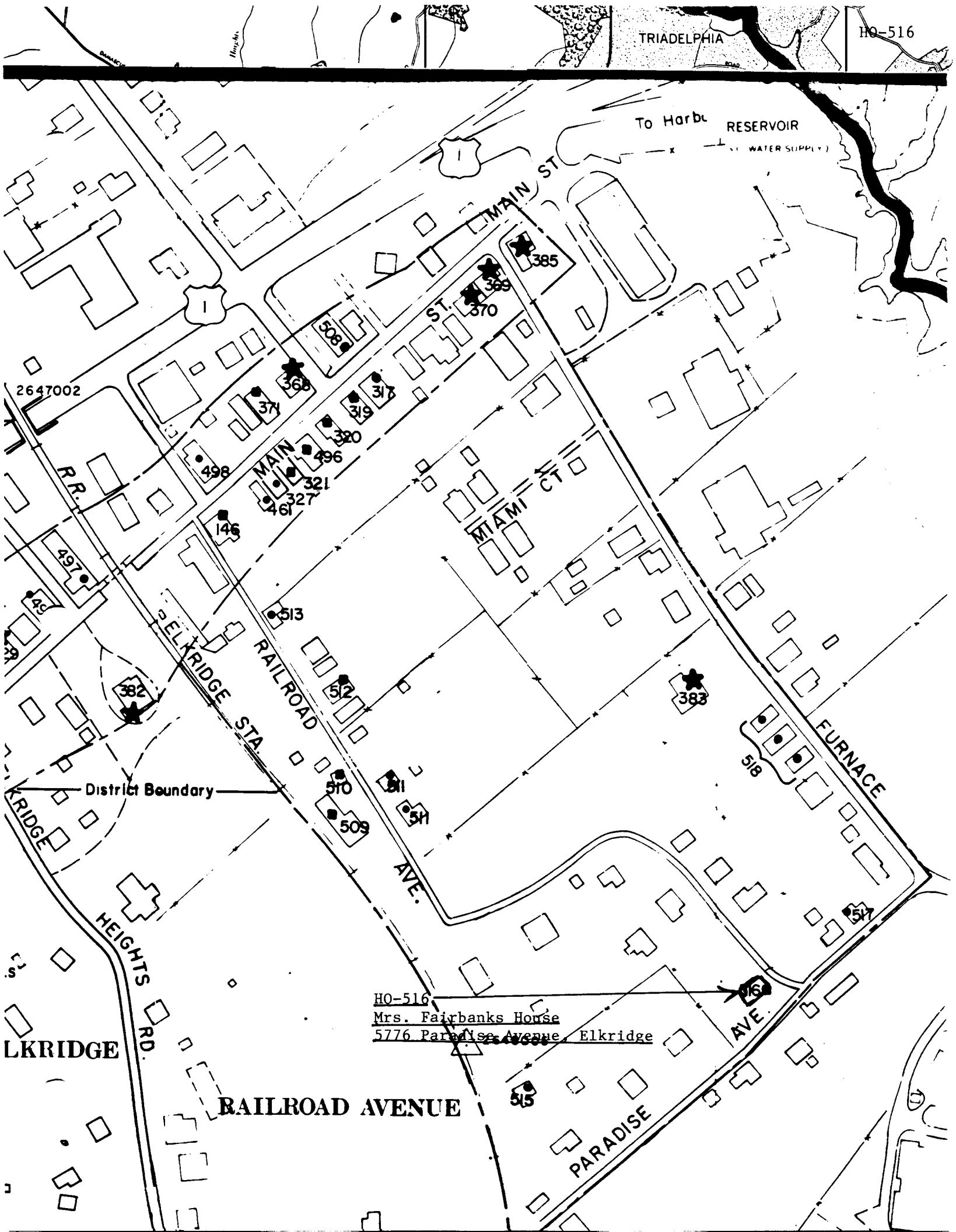
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Broken lines represent first floor lines
One Story High Shed Roofed
addition upon which rests
a second floor, gabled roof, projecting bay.

Figure 1
HO-516
The Mrs. Fairbanks House
Second Floor Plan



2647002

To Harbor RESERVOIR

WATER SUPPLY

MAIN ST

ST.

MIAMI CT

RAILROAD STA.

FURNACE

District Boundary

AVE.

AVE.

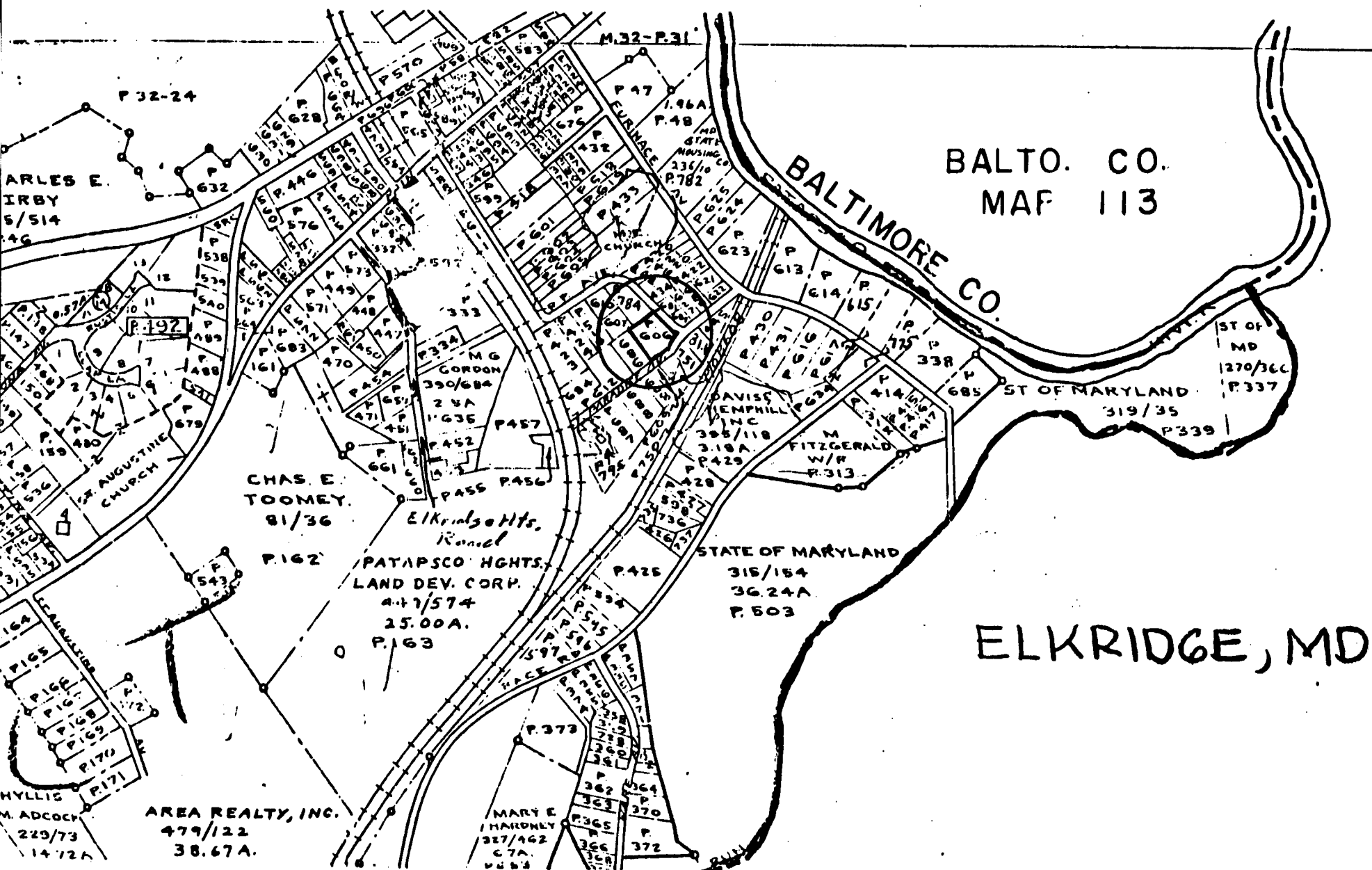
PARADISE

RAILROAD AVENUE

LKRIDGE

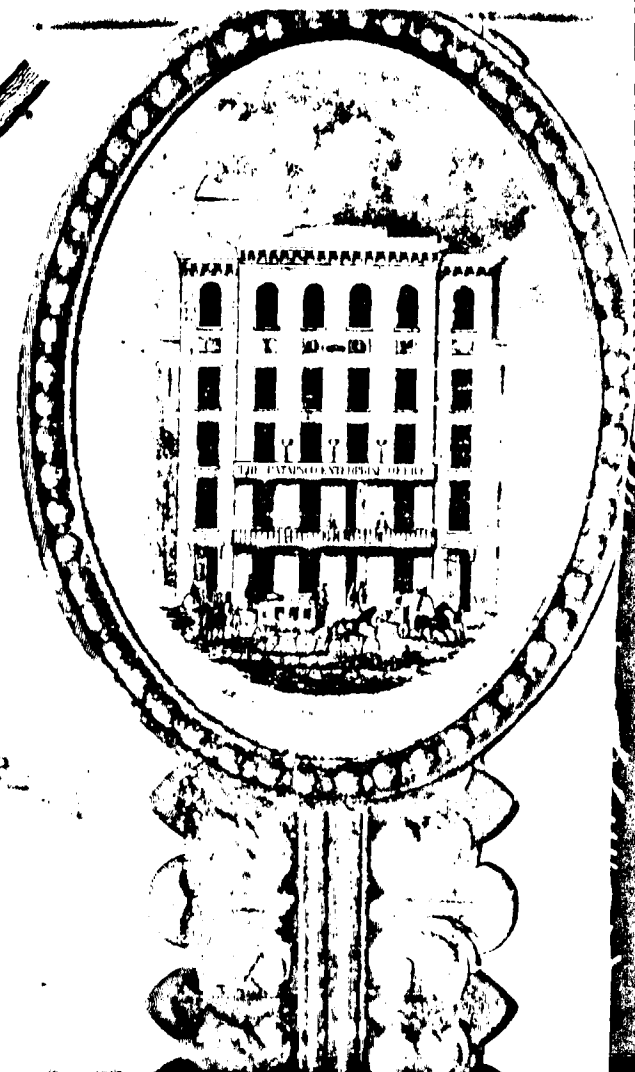
HO-516
Mrs. Fairbanks House
5776 Paradise Avenue, Elkridge

Tax Map 38

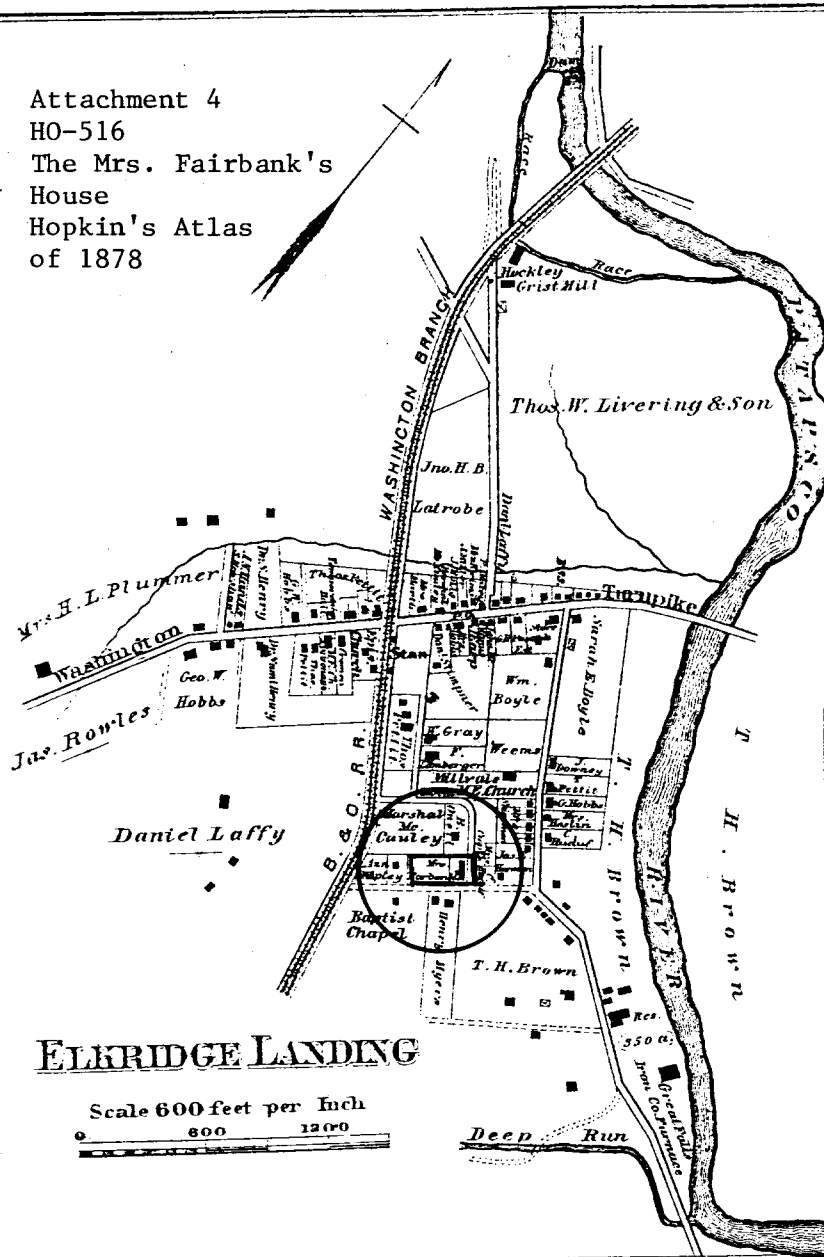




Attachment 3
HO-516
The Mrs. Fairbank's House
Martennet Map of 1860



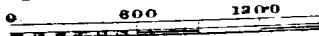
Attachment 4
HO-516
The Mrs. Fairbank's
House
Hopkin's Atlas
of 1878



Elkridge Landing Business Notices.	
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.	
ROBERT A. DOBBINS.	
GEORGE W. DOBBINS,	
42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.	
THOMAS M. DOBBINS,	
42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.	
BLACKSMITHS AND WHEEL- WRIGHTS.	
JOHN BRYAN.	
JOHN B. HELM.	
CARPENTER.	
JAMES ROWLES.	
ENGINEER.	
JOHN N. HANDS.	
GENERAL MERCHANTS.	
DANIEL LAFFY.	
MARSHALL McCAULBY.	
JOSEPH H. TALBOT,	
GEOBGE W. POCOCK,	
POST MASTER.	
JAMES EARP.	
TINSMITH.	
GEORGE LANOR,	
Tin and Sheet Iron Worker, Roofing and Spouting, etc.	

ELKRIDGE LANDING

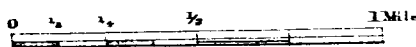
Scale 600 feet per Inch



FIRST DISTRICT

HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 3 Inches per Mile



EXPLANATIONS	
Dist. & Co. Lines	— — — — —
County Roads	— — — — —
Private "	— — — — —
Turpike	— — — — —
Rail Roads	— — — — —
Streams	~~~~~
The figures along the Roads shows the distance in Rods, from junction to junction thereof	

Elkridge
Hond
ME.Ch.
E. Durall, Res. 500 a.
W.L. Gardner, 30 a.
C.D. Anderson, 30 a.
Win Thwait
Fred Russell, 60 a. Res.
Jas. Barman
Jas. Anderson
Stag
Pierceland
Hoover'sville P.O.

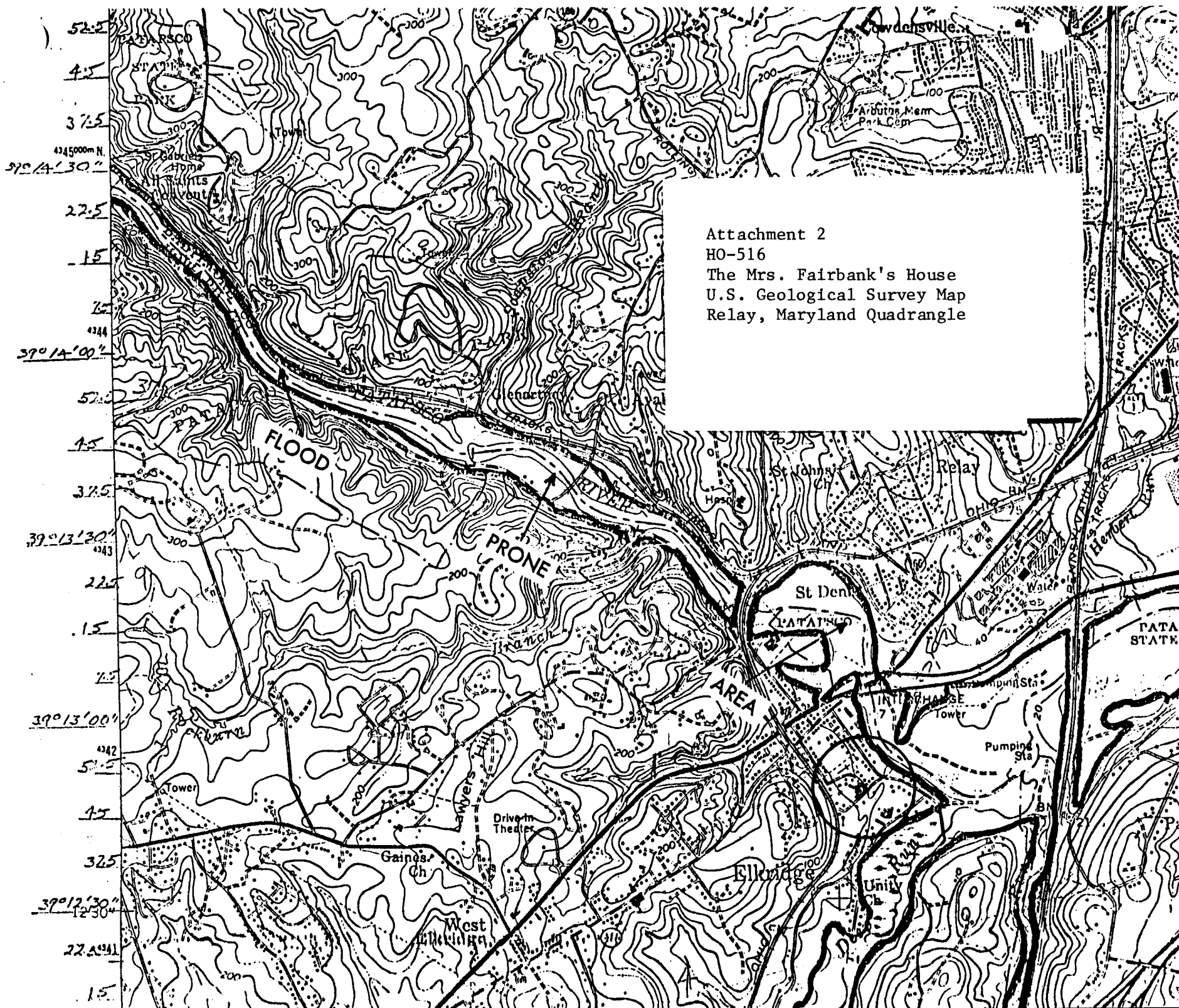
Waterloo

Chas. Crook, 500 a.
Jas. R. Birchhead
Reclory
Trinity P.E. Ch.
M. Tullm, 1330 a.
Mrs. Laird, 3500 a. Res. CAM

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by G. M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

A N N E A

5712 3 4 1 5
1 1 1 1 1 1
20



Attachment 2
HO-516
The Mrs. Fairbank's House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle



Hb-516

Mrs. Fairbanks House
SE.

Cleora Thompson, ALCP
February, 1979